

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20510

August 24, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are dismayed at reports that you are not planning to extend your self-imposed August 31, 2021, deadline to withdraw United States troops from Afghanistan. As the world watches America end our twenty-year mission in Afghanistan, it is critically important that we not complete the withdrawal of our troops until American citizens and our Afghan allies are evacuated or brought to safety.

We are deeply concerned about the ability to meet our evacuation and rescue mission ahead of this date. We support the Administration's recent statements highlighting the priority of bringing American citizens home and committing to keep our troops in Afghanistan until Americans are removed from the country. We stand ready to assist in this effort.

It also is critical that we honor our commitments to our Afghan allies and ensure they are protected from perilous Taliban retribution in the coming days. We ask that you continue to prioritize Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders and SIV applications, as well as religious minorities and other refugees in danger in Afghanistan. Our continued support for our Afghan allies is crucial to address imminent threats against these friends of the United States, as well as to demonstrate our reliability to allies across the globe.

We urge your Administration to ensure that adequate resources remain in Afghanistan until our citizens and allies are safe and this mission is complete.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress